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Friday, July 20, 2012

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Online woes spark first Microsoft loss ever

NEW YORK (AFP) - Microsoft posted its first ever loss yesterday, shedding \$492 million in the fourth quarter due to a massive \$6.2 billion write-down to reflect the slump in value of its online operations.

Microsoft still posted an annual profit of \$16.98 billion and said the results reflected "solid revenue growth and rigorous cost discipline."

The Redmond, Washington-based firm had announced earlier this month it would take the \$6.2 billion write-down, which is required by accounting rules and does not affect the company's cash position.

Taking out one-time charges, Microsoft showed a profit of 73 cents a share, well ahead of Wall Street expectations of 62 cents.

Revenue also beat expectations, rising four percent to \$18 billion in the quarter to June 30. For the full year, revenues were up five percent at \$73.7 billion.

"We delivered record fourth

quarter and annual revenue, and we're fast approaching the most exciting launch season in Microsoft history," said Steve Ballmer, chief executive of Microsoft.

The company is preparing to release a new version of its leading Windows operating system and a new tablet computer, while making an aggressive move into smartphones.

"The combination of solid revenue growth and rigorous cost discipline drove double-digit operating income growth for the quarter, adjusting for the goodwill impairment and deferred revenue," said Peter Klein, chief financial officer.

Microsoft shares rose 2.14 percent to \$31.32 in after-hours electronic trades.

The fourth quarter losses stemmed from a charge reflecting a write-down related to the 2007 acquisition of aQuantive, a digital advertising firm aimed at helping Microsoft compete against Google and others.

Cool Casino celebrates 5th anniversary this month of July

Cool Casino' attractive slogan is... "Where Everyone is Welcome!" Situated in the elegant RIU Aruba Palace with its fabulous ambiance and trained staff who treat visitors with impeccable 5 star services... Cool Casino is celebrating their first lustrum!

Cool Casino was designed with each player in mind. You'll find Black Jack tables, Caribbean Stud Poker, 3 Card Poker, Roulette, Craps and of course an array of famous Slot Machines.



into the tombola. The more you play the more tickets you can earn.

Cool Casino also has other activities such as the Cool Raffle from Monday to Thursday and a cash prize on Saturday. On Monday and Thursday you can earn 2x points from 10 am to 4 am. Then, there is the Black Jack Tournament on Tuesday and Friday beginning at 7:30 pm. On Saturday and Sunday earn 3x points and Coffee Morning beginning at 10 am to 6 pm. On Wednesday they have the famous Ladies Night where 100 ladies receive \$10 tickets to play the Slot Machines. On Sunday, the Cool

Slot Tournament begins at 7:30 pm.

Cool Casino Management is very pleased with the tremendous work of their dedicated staff and for their numerous clients who have supported them for these five successful years. A very special invitation has been extended to the general public to come and celebrate together with them on July 20th where many prizes will be available, as well as cakes, snacks and champagne as of 8 pm, all with the entertainment of the Happy Band and Robert Thiel on the wheel.

Congrats Cool Casino from The Morning News team!!



In connection with their 5th anniversary, the Casino is announcing various activities for the month of July. There will be events such as Tournaments, Live Music and Cash Prizes. As part of the 5th anniversary celebration the Casino will be giving away Afls. 35.000 in cash to their clients. On the 16th of July they gave away Afls.17.500 and on the 31st of July they will give away another Afls.17.500.

To win prizes, one needs to simply join the Cool Players Club and play the slot machines and accumulate points to receive a ticket to deposit



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High interest for Elmar's prepaid electrical meters



N.V. Elmar is currently introducing their newest product... the prepaid electrical meter. This is what many have been asking for and is currently a popular topic of conversation.

During the introductory phase the prepaid meters are available, at least for now, only in the Noord and San Nicolas districts.

Clients interested in having a prepaid meter installed in their home, who live in the Noord or San Nicolas dis-

tricts, should call ELMAR. If the service is available in their barrio, the client will have to go to one of the offices of ELMAR either in San Nicolas, Oranjestad or Hato.

The client will then be offered a six months contract, which will be automatically renewable until the client decides to discontinue the service. ELMAR is not charging a deposit fee for the meter, nor are there any installation charges.

The prepaid meters are being installed on the outside of a home, just like all previous meters as we are already well accustomed to here. The only difference is that ELMAR will install the "interface" gadget inside your home close to an electrical outlet. This gadget is what the client will use to charge and recharge their electricity. The client will also use the interface gadget to evaluate their actual consumption on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

It will be very simple to recharge your electricity; the client purchases a voucher with a recharge number at one of the sales points. Using this number the client can recharge his electricity at home at the interface apparatus installed inside his home.

In addition to showing the client what is his credit balance in money, on the card the client will also note how many Kwh the credit he purchased will give him. The interface apparatus will show the client his new balance, how much money credit he has for electricity.

Reportedly, a pre-paid electrical meter has many benefits for those who want to control their budget and use electricity better. What's more, in the event the electricity gets disconnected, the client will not have to pay to have his electricity re-connected since all he needs to do is buy a new voucher and recharge. Another good feature is that ELMAR will neither charge a fee to reconnect the electricity. For those operating apartments, this type of meter is ideal, although they cannot serve as a "tussen meter" (in between) but as a meter on its own apart from ELMAR's meter.

Prime Minister has heavy agenda on last day in Holland



On the last day of his official visit to the Netherlands, the Aruban Prime Minister had an unusually heavy schedule. His day began with an early morning meeting with Second House of Chambers' member Willibrord van Beek (VVD). The former president of the Kingdom Relations reported that he desired to return to the Second House of Chambers after the elections.

Aruba's PM expressed appreciation for the sincere inter-

est that van Beek demonstrated for Caribbean concerns in the Kingdom. Van Beek assured Aruba that his interest has not changed.

Next on the PM's agenda was a visit to the Chinese Ambassador in Holland, Mr. Zhang Jun. Obviously they discussed the plans of Petro China for the refinery in San Nicolas. However, because the plans are still in their preparatory stages, no concrete information was forthcoming.

Continued on page 5

Sunday **KOFFIE MORGEN**

Monday **Daily Raffle \$ 500** Earn **DOUBLE POINTS**

Tuesday **Daily Raffle \$ 500 - BlackJack Tournament**

Wednesday **Daily Raffle \$ 500 - Cool Casino - LADIES NIGHT**

Thursday **Daily Raffle \$ 500** Earn **DOUBLE POINTS**

Friday **BlackJack Tournament**

Saturday **KOFFIE MORGEN**



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Ora : 10:00 am pa 3:00 pm

Lugar : Busstation San Nicolas

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July 20 2012



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Cool Raffle



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Time:	Extractions:
9:00 p.m	1
10:00 p.m.	1
11:00 p.m.	1

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July 31st is last day for changes in 2013 Telephone Directory



The 2013 new telephone directory is on its way to the printers and SETAR is reminding all subscribers that the very last day to make changes for insertion in the 2013 edition is quickly approaching....actually that last day is Tuesday, July 31st, 2012.

If the business name or if a client's name does not appear correctly in the telephone directory, there is still time to make the changes for the upcoming 2013 edition. To request the change, clients must go to any one of SETAR's

Teleshops with a valid identification to request the necessary change.

The deadline to register a name, correct address for publication in the 2013 Telephone Directory is **Tuesday, July 31, 2013**. Actually the registry of names is according to the name and address registered in the data base at SETAR.

In the SETAR telephone directory, users find information regarding products and services of SETAR for home telephones, cellular, Internet and Cable. In addition, the tele-

phone directory also contains the necessary requirements for applying for any SETAR service. There is also a listing of the operating hours and locations of all SETAR Teleshops in the directory.

In the "white pages" section of the directory there is the listing of all fixed home phone numbers and business numbers (which are not "unlisted"). There are also cellular numbers for those who have requested these to be listed. In the "yellow pages" section there is the listing of information and numbers of all businesses on Aruba in different categories. Then there are the "Community Pages" with information and numbers of all government departments and foundations, as well as valuable information concerning hurricanes. And, there is also a section dealing with the orthography of Aruba's Papiamentu.

The Aruba telephone directory is also available online, and clients can go to: www.arubayp.com to peruse the directory.

"SETAR closer to you" this Tuesday in Santa Cruz



SANTA CRUZ -- During the months of May, June and July, SETAR, Aruba's telecommunications company, organized informative and educational sessions to teach clients more about their products and services. This project, dubbed, "SETAR - closer to you," brings SETAR's people to three districts on the island for info sessions covering 4 specific topics. They will visit the Oranjestad, San Nicolaas and Santa Cruz districts.

Clients are encouraged to register to participate to receive information regarding all the technology, products and services that SETAR has to offer. They will inform about their different product lines:

Fixed Telephone lines – TeleGratis packages, Mobile Prepaid: new purchase options for prepaid services, Mobile Postpaid: Android and its benefits, Internet: 4G Wireless Broadband and Cable: Cable's new programming and Digital Video Recording (DVR).

The next informative night will take place on Tuesday July 24, 2012, at Teleshop St. Cruz from 6:30 pm pa 9:00 pm

SETAR invites those interested in participating in these session to register online via SETAR's website www.setar.aw or to call 114 to register. Because seating is limited to only 50 persons, it is imperative that you register as soon as possible.



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Airport police close net around turkey sandwich saboteur

AMSTERDAM -- Police at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport have been able to establish at what point in the production process needles must have been inserted into six turkey sandwiches which ended up on Delta Airline flights, the Telegraaf reports yesterday.

The paper says this has enabled the police to reduce the number of suspects and that they are 'hopeful' of a speedy arrest.

A team of detectives is continuing to interview 'dozens' of catering staff, cooks and drivers who were involved in the production of the sandwiches, which were found on four separate flights, the paper said.

On Wednesday, police said the sandwiches and needles are being flown back to the Netherlands for tests.

The needles were found in six sandwiches on four flights between Schiphol and the US. Two were found by members of the same family on different flights, according to media reports.

The sandwiches were made by Gate Gourmet, a Swiss firm and one of the world's biggest airline caterers.

"We take this matter very seriously," said Gate Gourmet. "We are treating this as a criminal act."

Only Delta flights appear to be affected. It said it stopped serving the sandwiches as soon as it was aware of the needle scare and started serving pizza instead.

UFILCOA supports Family First Foundation

Ricky de Peralta, President of the United Filipino Community of Aruba (UFILCOA) and officers Mila de Quito, Vinda de Leon and Jennifer Islip were very pleased to present a donation to Annalis Schoop of the Families First Foundation, to assist the fledgling foundation in their first major project: presenting 200 school children with backpacks filled with supplies necessary for a successful school year.

The presentation took place in the offices of Universal Life Ministry in Oranjestad on Wednesday afternoon, July 18. Annalis explained the purpose of the foundation "is to help families and individuals connect with the proper agencies and receive the help and social services to assist them in becoming a healthy, viable family unit once more." It is the belief of Families First that Aruba's future lies in achieving and preserving healthy, happy, connected families.

"The mission and vision of Families First is very much in keeping with the basic beliefs of the Filipino community," explained Mr. de Peralta. "We expatriate Filipinos are a very strong, close-knit community with a great emphasis on family. We wish to see this cohesive element of family maintained through the next generation, and believe projects



Annalis, Mila, Vinda, Jennifer and Ricky de Peralta

which encourage and support this are good for the community. We are very pleased and proud to help Families First with this project."

Mr. de Peralta was also in a position with his work to arrange for the foundation to acquire very attractive, quality backpacks for the project at the best price possible, while the cash donation will help fill them with agendas, pens, pencils, composition books and various other school materials.

Annalis Schoop expressed the foundation's heartfelt gratitude for the support and endorsement of UFILCOA in what they are trying to accomplish. She encourages anyone needing discreet, confidential advice and guidance for dealing with various family issues to contact their foundation at 592-2008 or 564-3696 or e-mail cpfaruba.info@gmail.com.

by Rosalie Klein

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“Solo by Ronchi”: the new fashion label by local and renowned designer Ronchi de Cuba



Are you budget conscious but still want to be at the top of fashion? Well the new line “Solo by Ronchi” is the new wear for you.

Local designer Ronchi de Cuba is known for his great taste, designs and a variation of prices in his clothing and he is proud to launch yet another creation: “Solo by Ronchi.”

Ronchi describes the label as “budget fashion girl on the go,” which consist of “party wear” at reasonable prices. The new line is a concept of Ronchi, designed by him for all ladies who want to be on top of fashion during all occasions. The collecting consists of different colors inspired by different persons or countries. The label is pre-

sented in “mini groups” and each group has its own inspiration.

Recently, local model and international host Carolina Albertsz wore one of the designs during an interview with Prince Roys who is going to be in concert on the island this weekend. Carolina wore a “one shoulder body hugging dress” of the “mini group”: ‘runway athletic’. This group is based on the inspiration of athletes who wish for a ‘fashion twist’ in their wardrobe.

So, all you ladies who want to look fabulous and spectacular and feel like a real ‘Diva,’ are invited to visit the Trash by Ronchi store to be introduced to this new and fresh line

Prime Minister has heavy agenda . . .

Continued from page 2

Later the Prime Minister was received in the building of the Second House of Chambers by the new leader of the PvdA party, Diederik Samson. They referred to and discussed in detail the added value that Aruba brings as a gateway for Dutch businesses between Europe, North and Latin America.

The next visit was to Delft to the offices of TNO where a meeting was held to discuss the government’s ambition for a durable supply of sustainable energy for Aruba. At this meeting, representatives of TNO, the Carbon War Room as well as Kitty van der Heijden, ambassador of Sustainable Development at the Ministry of External Affairs were all present.

Following this meeting the PM attended a press conference in Amsterdam of world famous DJ Chuckie (Clyde Sergio Narain). Dj Chuckie

announced that he is planning to open a super high-tech studio in the Renaissance Hotel in Aruba. DJ Chuckie who has a house in Aruba recently made a presentation in the International Film festival held in Oranjestad. He had invited the Aruba Prime Minister to his press conference to thank him for helping establish the first contacts for him in Aruba.

Reportedly, world class artists will be making their way to DJ Chuckie’s studio in Aruba. The PM ended his day with a discourse in Leiden for members of the *Vereniging Antilliaans Netwerk* and the *Genootschap Nederland-Aruba* and other interested parties.

Before returning to Aruba, the Prime Minister has a few other meetings to attend in Schiphol.

Photos by: Nico van der Ven



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The Toto Family honored at the Aruba Marriott Vacation Club

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a very nice family as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees are Mr. Michael V. and Mrs. Maryanne Toto and their children Michael John and Gina Toto. The honoring took place at their home away from home, the Marriott Vacation Club.

The symbolic honorary title was presented to them in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation for their more than 10 consecutive visit on our island.

According to the Totos they have one thing in common: they love Aruba very much, the nice people, beautiful beaches, in one word “everything” Aruba has to offer to its visitors.

Mr. Michael V. Toto presented the Marriott Vacation Club with a beautiful album,



containing many pictures from all the years they have been vacationing at the resort. The Toto family also have the Aruban flag flying gracefully every day in their yard and they are very proud of it, and Mrs. Toto has an Aruban number plate on her car.

“We as Arubans are very proud of the Toto family, and

we want to thank them for everything they are doing to promote our beautiful Aruba,” Mr. Giel said.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mrs. Gail Sahit and Mrs. Lillian Britten of the the Marriott Vacation Club.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad yesterday met General Fahad Jassim al-Frej (R), after his swearing-in as Defence Minister in Damascus, in this handout photo distributed by Syrian News Agency (SANA). Syria's state TV said yesterday new Defence Minister General al-Frej took his oath of office in front of President Bashar al-Assad, who has not appeared in public since a bomb attack killed three of his top security officials.



Syrians cross the Lebanese border at Al Masnaa. Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan are worried about refugees streaming across their borders



Members of the Free Syrian Army in Azzaz, Aleppo province yesterday.

Syria rebels seize Iraq border as UN action blocked

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Rebels seized control of all of Syria's border crossings with Iraq yesterday, dealing a new blow to President Bashar al-Assad, as China and Russia dismayed the West by blocking UN action against his regime.

The rebel offensive on Syria's eastern border came as the army focussed its resources on Damascus, resorting to tank fire in the capital for the first time in its efforts to root out rebel fighters a day after a bomb blast killed three of Assad's top aides.

The president appeared in public for the first time since the bombing, greeting his new defence minister on state television, as he scrambled to shore up his battered prestige.

It was the third time in nine months that Russia and China had used their powers as permanent members of the UN Security Council to block resolutions on Syria.

UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan, who had called on the council to impose "consequences" for the failure to carry out his peace plan for Syria, expressed disappointment that it had failed to reach agreement.

Washington said the vetos meant the 300-strong UN observer mission deployed in Syria to oversee Annan's peace blueprint would now have to be withdrawn when its current mandate expires today.

Iraq's deputy interior minister said fighters of the rebel Free Syrian Army had seized control of all crossings along the two countries' border, adding that Baghdad was mulling closing the frontier following bloody rebel reprisals against regime troops.

"All the border points between Iraq and Syria are under the control of the Free Syrian Army," Adnan al-Assadi told AFP by telephone.

Assadi said Iraqi border guards had witnessed the Free Syrian Army take control of a border outpost, detain a Syrian army lieutenant colonel, and then cut off his arms and legs.

"Then they executed 22 Syrian soldiers in front of the eyes of Iraqi soldiers."

The account of the killings could not be independently verified.

Assadi added: "If this situation continues, we are going to close the entire border with Syria."

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said rebels had also seized control of a post on the border with Turkey.

"Rebel fighters seized control of the Bab al-Hawa crossing (in the northwestern province of Idlib)," the Britain-based rights group said, adding that the rebels removed a photograph of Assad that was displayed there.

The upsurge in fighting, which claimed some 200 lives yesterday alone according to the Observatory's figures, sent a new exodus of refugees fleeing across Syria's borders.

Nearly 19,000 Syrians

poured into Lebanon, a security official told AFP in Beirut, while Iraqi officials said thousands of Iraqi refugee families had fled home from Syria.

Western governments expressed outrage at the decision by Beijing and Moscow to again block UN action against Assad's regime.

"The United Kingdom is appalled at the veto of Russia and China," said British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, whose country took the lead in drafting the resolution.

The text, backed by the United States, France, Germany and Portugal, called for non-military sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter if Assad did not withdraw heavy weapons from Syrian cities in 10 days.

Russia accused Western governments of seeking a pretext for military intervention.

The resolution sought to "open the path to the pressure of sanctions and further to external military involvement in Syrian domestic affairs," said Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin.

The United States said the Security Council had "utterly failed" on Syria and that it would now work outside of the council to confront Assad's regime.

The White House said that without the tougher mandate the vetoed text would have implied, there was no point in retaining UN military observers in Syria to monitor the non-implementation of Annan's plan by Assad's government.

"The United States doesn't support sending unarmed UN employees into Syria to try to observe the brutality of the Assad regime when there's no mechanism within the resolution to create consequences for the regime," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

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Michelle Obama launches voter outreach campaign

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US First Lady Michelle Obama is launching a grassroots campaign stressing every vote counts in her husband's quest to stay in the White House, the Democratic re-election team announced yesterday.

The president's wife is expected in the battleground state of Virginia today to officially kick off the "It takes One" initiative ahead of the November 6 poll that pits Obama against Republican rival Mitt Romney.

"Every single person can make a difference in this election -- and today we're asking supporters to start by taking one action that will help grow our campaign," Michelle Obama said in a statement issued by Obama for America.

"If we all commit to finding at least one way to make an impact, we can ensure that we'll keep moving this country forward for another four years."

Ways in which supporters can help Obama's grassroots effort is by helping new voters get registered, recruiting volunteers or bringing friends to phone banks, she said.

Much like she was four years ago, Michelle Obama is an active member of her husband's re-election effort and takes part in many fundraising events on his behalf.

With Romney raking in more campaign donations over the past two months, Obama's team is counting on a tight network to mobilize supporters.

This model proved very effective in 2008 when Obama won the Democratic primary and the presidential election, in particular thanks to a large increase in participation by young voters and minorities, groups more likely to stay away from the polls.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Liberia's Taylor appeals war crimes conviction

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Liberian ex-president Charles Taylor has appealed his conviction and 50-year jail sentence for war crimes in Sierra Leone, the international court handling the case said yesterday.

"Charles Taylor appeals against the judgement and the sentencing judgement... and respectfully requests that the appeals chamber reverse all the convictions entered against him," said the defence request made public by the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Taylor was found guilty in April of war crimes and crimes against humanity over the 1991-2001 civil war in Sierra Leone, for aiding and abetting "some of the most heinous crimes in human history".

He was the first former head of state to be convicted

by an international court since the Nuremberg Nazi trials in 1946.

The former warlord was sentenced in May to 50 years in jail after his conviction on 11 counts for arming Sierra Leone's rebels in return for "blood diamonds" during the war which claimed 120,000 lives.

In the appeal document, his defence said the court had made "systematic errors" in evaluating evidence, and relied on "uncorroborated hearsay evidence as the sole basis for specific incriminating findings of fact".

The prosecution, which had sought an 80-year jail term for Taylor, has also appealed, according to the court which is based outside The Hague.

The court had found that Taylor was paid in diamonds mined in areas under the con-

trol of Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front rebels, who murdered, raped and mutilated their victims while forcing children to fight and keeping sex slaves.

Taylor, 64, maintained his innocence during the trial which saw a number of high-profile witnesses testify including British supermodel Naomi Campbell.

Liberia's president from 1997 to 2003, Taylor was arrested in March 2006 as he tried to flee from exile in Nigeria, after being forced to quit Liberia three years earlier under international pressure to end a civil war in his own country.

He was transferred to The Hague in 2006 amid fears that trying him in Freetown would pose a security threat. He was due to serve his sentence in a British jail.

British border officials to strike day before Olympics

LONDON (AFP) - British border officials will strike on the day before the start of the London Olympics in a row over jobs, pay and working conditions, their union said yesterday.

Thousands of Home Office staff, including immigration workers at London's Heathrow Airport, a main gateway to the Games, are to stage a 24-hour strike on July 26.

The Public and Commercial Services union (PCS) said its members would also take other forms of industrial action, such as a ban on overtime, from July 27 to August 20, covering the entire duration of the Olympics.

The strike falls on what is expected to be the busiest day in Heathrow's history.

The union said just over 57 percent of those who voted backed strike action, although only 20 percent of the 16,000 members cast votes.

PCS general secretary Mark Serwotka blamed government cuts for making his members' lives "intolerable".

"The lives of staff have been made intolerable by these cuts and they're at breaking point."

"Ministers have known about these issues for a very long time and need to act now to sort out the chaos they have

caused.

"They're acting recklessly in cutting so many jobs and privatising services, and are provocatively refusing to talk to us with a genuine desire to reach an agreement."

Britain's interior minister, Home Secretary Theresa May, said the decision to strike was "shameful".

"They are holding a strike on what is one of the key days for people coming in for the Olympic Games," she said. "I

think that is shameful, frankly.

"We will of course put contingency arrangements in place to ensure we can deal with people coming through the border as smoothly as possible."

Heathrow has had to draft in extra border staff to cope with the thousands of arrivals for the Olympics, after some passengers faced waits of several hours to have their passports checked in recent weeks.



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FRANCE, Guéret : Two French entrepreneurs show bottles of their Drink Safran Kiwi (DSK, or Saffron Kiwi Drink) during a presentation on July 16, 2012 on a highway rest area near Gueret, central France. This fizzy drink with alleged aphrodisiac qualities carrying the initials of disgraced IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, to be sold in Paris and the French Riviera, is geared towards "the in-crowd, night clubbers" who will mix it with a hard drink, its designer Stephane Briault told AFP on July 19, 2012. (AFP PHOTO)

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Health & Living

Cholera epidemic in Niger kills 58, hits Malian refugee camp

NIAMEY (AFP) - A cholera epidemic in Niger has killed 58 people and spread to a refugee camp housing Malians who have fled the unrest in the north of their country, the UN said Thursday.

"The overall number of cases reported as of July 15 is 2,900, with 58 deaths," the UN's Office said.

The epidemic broke out in January in the western region of Tillaberi.

Its spread to the Tabareybare refugee camp -- where the UN World Health Organisation has registered nine cases -- is particularly worrying for health officials. The highly contagious intestinal illness can decimate refugee

camps.

Aid group Doctors Without Borders's Swiss branch has opened a separate treatment centre nearby to care for the cholera patients and to try to stem the spread of the violent diarrhoea caused by the disease.

The UN refugee agency set up the Tabareybare camp in June to shelter the flood of Malians fleeing the chaos sown by the rebellion in their country's north.

Rights groups say that the rebel groups there, who have seized an area the size of France, have carried out rapes, executions and other atrocities.

The Al-Qaeda-linked Is-

lamist groups currently controlling the north are imposing strict Islamic law over their territory. They have publicly whipped and beaten locals accused of smoking, drinking and pre-marital sex.

Top US judge denies row over Obamacare ruling

(AFP) - A conservative Supreme Court judge denied Wednesday falling out with the top US court's chief justice over his shock decision to back President Barack Obama's health reform law.

In a rare interview, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said he had legal differences, but no personal arguments with Chief Justice John Roberts, who dismayed conservatives in the landmark vote last month.

"No, I haven't had a falling out with Justice Roberts," Scalia told CNN interviewer Piers Morgan, adding: "There are clashes on legal questions but not personally." "The press likes to paint us as nine scorpions in a bottle and that's just not the case at all," he said, referring to media reports suggesting the surprise decision triggered tense scenes in the court. "You should not believe what you read about the court in the newspapers .. It's either been made up or been given to the newspapers by somebody who's violating a confidence, which means that person is not reliable."

Chief Justice Roberts, who had been seen as a reliable conservative, was branded a traitor by some over his decisive role in the 5-4 vote to uphold the health insurance mandate at the heart of what critics deride as "Obamacare."

Gene scans show colon, rectal tumours are same

PARIS (AFP) - The biggest genetic analysis of colon and rectal tumours show that these cancer types are almost indistinguishable, a finding that could improve treatment options, a study said on Wednesday.

A US-funded consortium of scientists compared the genetic codes of cancer cells found in 224 samples of colorectal tumours.

"This finding of the true genetic nature of colon and rectal cancers

is an important achievement in our quest to understand the foundations of this disease," the head of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), Francis Collins, said in a statement.

"The data and knowledge gained here have the potential to change the way we diagnose and treat certain cancers."

The sweep threw up 24 genes where telltale mutations point to a role in either



initiating or accelerated colorectal cancer.

They include the genes ERBB2 and IGF2, which are involved in cell proliferation.

In 2008, colorectal cancer claimed 608,000 lives globally, making it the fourth deadliest form of cancer, according to the latest figures posted by the UN's World Health Organisation (WHO).

The study, authored by The Cancer Genome Atlas project, appears in the British science journal Nature.

Italian officials seize vivisection dog centre

ROME (AFP) - Italian authorities seized a notorious dog-breeding compound on Wednesday that raised thousands of Beagles for vivisection laboratories, officials said.

Thirty rangers from Italy's forest service raided the facility run by the firm Green Hill, authorities said in a statement. The compound is located in Montichiari, close to the town of Brescia in northern Italy.

Rangers said three people

were under investigation for animal abuse and neglect, and that the dogs would remain at the compound for now.

About 2,500 dogs and puppies are kept in four hangars on the five-hectare (12-acre) compound.

The action comes three months after a dozen anti-vivisection activists were arrested after they broke into the compound to rescue puppies.

"It's the first good news of the year and I am happy it's coming from Italy," French ex-film star and animal rights activist Brigitte Bardot said in a statement.

"This dog farm of shame must permanently close its doors because we have no right to abandon thousands of dogs in hell," she added.

The Italian senate is currently reviewing a provision that would bar the breeding of dogs, cats and primates for experimentation.



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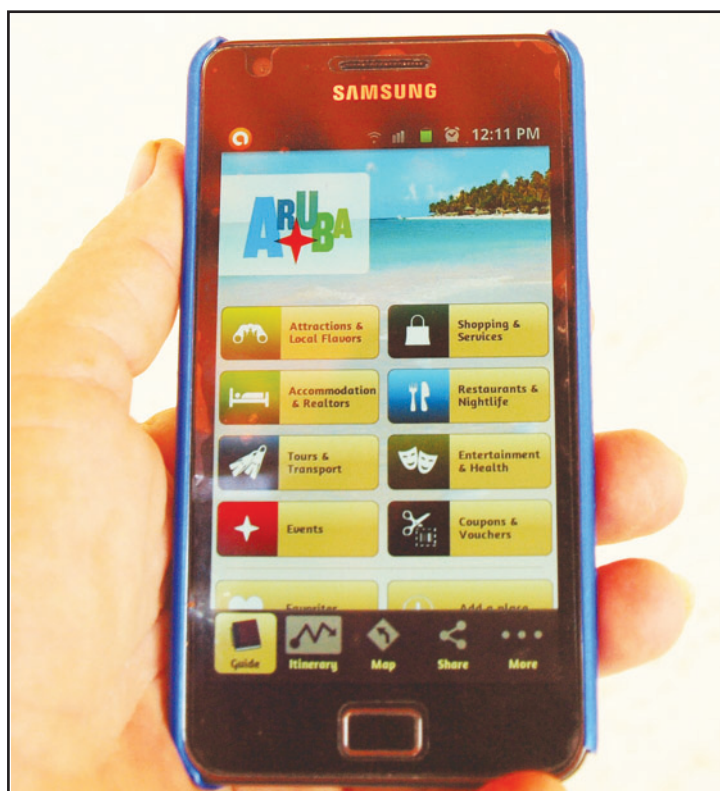
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Sci-Tech

Aruba at your fingertips...

Aruba Travel Guide smartphone app is up and running!



Menu

In February of this year, the ATA unveiled the Official Aruba Travel Guide app for smartphones during an informative evening where programmers and managers of Aruba's online presence were introduced. The ATA announced yesterday morning the app is up and running, and since making it available around six weeks prior, they are happy to announce over 5,400 download of the app; 4300 via iTunes and the 1100 to android phones via Google Market.

ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes announced the remodeling and upgrading of Aruba's website, Aruba.com, is expected to be completed by December, though many of the changes in the home page can be seen now. A download widget for the Aruba Travel Guide is also featured on the home page, to facilitate its decimation.

Last year, an extensive survey of visitors and potential visitors by a team from the University Of Central Florida Rosen School Of Hospitality

Management, with an analysis of the findings, was commissioned by the Ministry of Tourism. One very interesting fact that came out of this was that 87% of those surveyed expressed that a smartphone app would most definitely improve their travel experience. Among a general survey of smartphone users, it was found that 69% regularly download fun and useful apps.

The ATA chose to partner with an experienced, but energetic young group called Aruba Travel Guide, with Brian Harms at the helm. The programmers chose a highly advanced, state-of-the-art engine which allows users to access information offline, without data streaming from their home provider. The advantage of this is that visitors from the U.S. and other countries can use the app to find out the closest restaurant or shop to their location, including the exact distance with directions how to get there, without using their home provider network; this means no unpleasant "sur-

prise" charges on their phone bill when they return home.

This same convenience provides offline access, and can be deployed while traveling to Aruba in airplane mode. A user can access all the directions and descriptions they need while on island at no cost, and share their experience on Facebook or Twitter, again, at no additional expense. The app will store the photos and comments until the next time they access their e-mail through either through their laptop or tablet, if traveling with those devices, or their resort's Internet communications center and then content can be uploaded to ATG cloud.

Since the app was made available they have received 175 very positive reviews and

it usually earns 4 and ½ to 5 stars from most users. Various venues are also receiving reviews, and the instant sharing of the experience will provide not only reinforcement and gratification to those doing their utmost to please customers, it will also improve the standards of those who receive criticism, which ATG developers feel is a good thing. In the short time the app has been available, they report they are also very surprised by the extreme interest users show in authentic island culture; the activity on the app will also provide cues and insight to the ATA in what aspects of Aruba's tourism product is successful, and what services are needed.

Presently they have listed around 80 commercial venues, such as dining, shopping and tours.

There are seven topic headings: Attractions & Local Flavor, Shipping & Services, Accommodations and Realtors, Restaurants & Nightlife, Tours & Transport, Entertainment & Health, Events, and a section containing coupons and special offers. Island visitors can instantly rate a product and provide a review if they please. Companies interested in being listed in the Official Aruba Travel Guide smartphone app can contact ATG representatives Emilia Lopez Henriquez or Melissa Lacle at 588-5055, extension 25.

by Rosalie Klein

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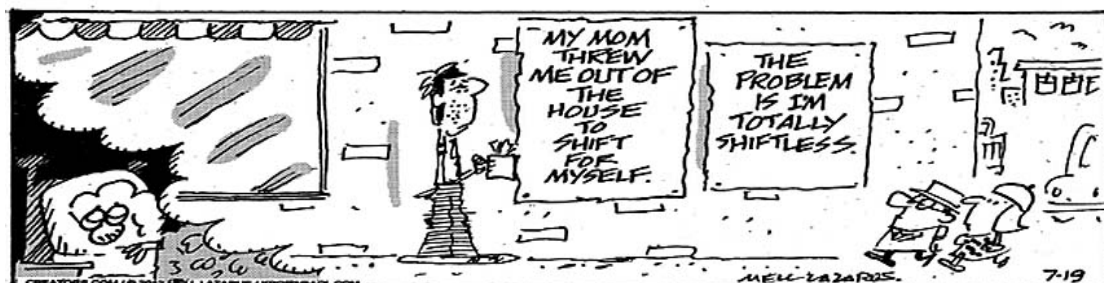
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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



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ACROSS

1. Bake sale gp.
4. Serpents
8. Vague schedule info (abbr.)
11. Camouflaged
12. ___ Lama
14. Stop sign's color
15. Place to get a license (abbr.)
16. Alda and Arkin
17. From ___ Z (2 wds.)
18. Containing nothing
20. Give a hand
22. Young herring
24. Honolulu's locale
27. Ins and ___
28. Dollop
29. Alps, e.g. (abbr.)
31. Sat. preceeder
32. Curve
33. Like a Slurpee
34. ___ Trueheart
36. Dentist's degree (abbr.)
37. Melissa ___ Hart
38. Change one's chair
40. Remove soap
41. Channel that shows musical videos (abbr.)
42. President after Bush
44. Before (prefix)
46. J. ___ Hoover
48. Pounds

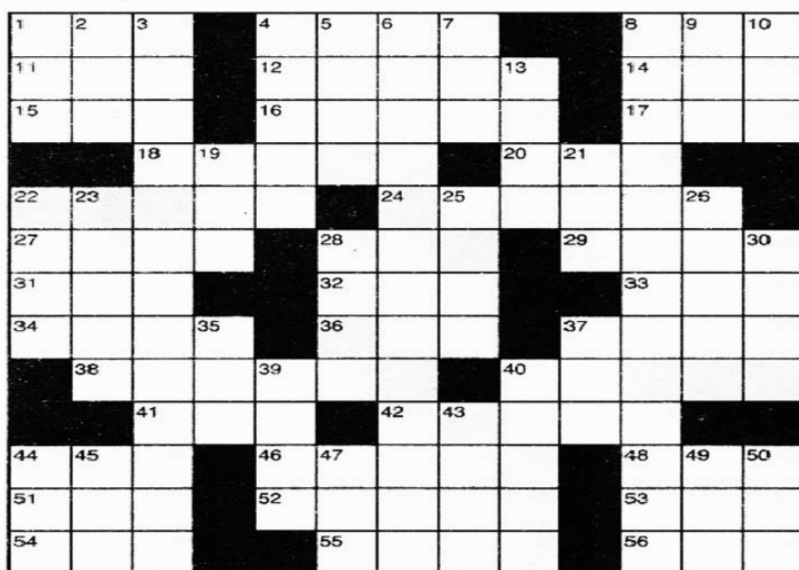
51. (abbr.) One billion years
52. Performer Della
53. Brit's bathroom
54. "___ your age!"
55. After mob or gang
56. Bark snappishly

DOWN

1. Advanced degree (abbr.)
2. Singer McGraw
3. Newspaper insert
4. Modify to fit

5. Ocean ingredient
6. Behave coyly (4 wds.)
7. ___ Francisco
8. Customarily
9. Racetrack
10. Much confusion
13. "___ the Light" (2 wds.)
19. Mothers, informally
21. "___ the Walrus" (2 wds.)
22. Not hard
23. Less contaminated
25. Fundamentals

26. Ancient Peruvians
28. Father, to a baby
30. End of a New Year's song title
35. Speedy jet (abbr.)
37. "According to ___" (TV show)
39. At any time
40. Pinker, as a steak
43. Naval post
44. Garden vegetable
45. Fabled bird
47. ___ Moines
49. Feathery scarf
50. Dip in liquid



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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
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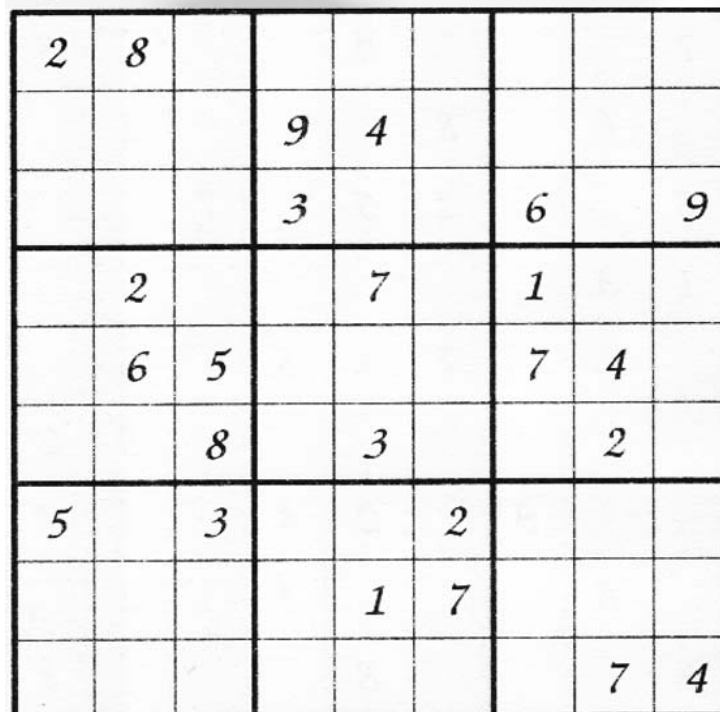
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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

TAXI
C.V. TAS
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In Oranjestad:
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582-5447
In San Nicolas
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602
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Tel. 588-0035

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Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	1	6	5	9	2	1	8	3
2	5	8	1	8	9	7	6	4
1	9	8	2	6	7	5	4	3
9	2	5	7	1	8	6	4	3
5	7	4	6	8	2	3	9	1
8	6	1	9	3	5	7	2	4
6	1	9	8	2	7	5	4	3
4	8	2	5	7	6	1	9	3
3	5	7	1	9	4	6	8	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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FINANCE

World Bank raises the Philippines growth forecast

The World Bank raised its 2012 growth forecast for the Philippines yesterday following a stronger-than-expected start to the year, but warned of headwinds from the crisis in Europe and a Chinese slowdown.

However, it said the momentum comes amid weakening global economic growth that would affect key export markets and cause job losses in electronics and other manufacturing industries.

The economy grew 6.4 percent in the three months to March, after an anaemic 3.9 percent expansion for 2011.

"We have revised our growth forecast upward to 4.6 percent from 4.2 percent for 2012, reflecting higher growth

in the first quarter," the bank said in a quarterly country report.

"However, this projection does not yet factor in a possible intensification of the crisis in Europe and a further slowdown in China."

It said domestic demand would be boosted by higher government spending and robust private consumption backed by remittances by a huge Filipino overseas work force.

The bank expects global growth to soften to 2.5 percent this year from 2.7 percent in 2011, hitting key Philippine export markets the United States, the eurozone, Japan and China.

German parliament approves Spanish bank aid

BERLIN (AFP) - Germany's parliament yesterday approved by a large majority a European aid package for crisis-wracked Spanish banks that aims to prevent Spain's whole economy being dragged deeper into the mire.

In the 10th German vote on European crisis measures since the debt emergency began, lawmakers voted by 473 to 97 to pass the package worth up to 100 billion euros (\$122 billion) to pump in much-needed cash to the Spanish banking sector.

A handful of MPs from all parties, hauled back from their summer holidays, voted against the rescue package amid unease in Germany, Europe's top economy, that it is on the hook for ever more bailouts of debt-stricken countries. The vote was urgent as Madrid hopes to sign the formal agreement with eurozone finance ministers today.

Opening the debate, Finance

Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said "today is about giving Spain the necessary time to solve its banking problems."

"In this exceptional situation, we are helping the Spanish state to battle against the overblown nervousness of the financial markets and we are therefore making our contribution to the overall financial stability of the eurozone."

Spain is hoping to get a first slice of 30 billion euros by the

end of the month and has in turn agreed to a raft of banking sector reforms and EU inspections to ensure the restructuring process is effective.

Demonstrating the urgency of the rescue, a Spanish bond auction earlier yesterday resulted in sharply higher borrowing costs and lower demand, pushing rates on the secondary market up towards the seven-percent level seen as unsustainable.



EMBILIPITIYA : A Sri Lankan labourer makes bricks by hand at a factory in Embilipitiya, some 190 kms south of Colombo, on July 19, 2012. Sri Lanka recorded an impressive 8.3 percent growth rate last year, up from 8.0 percent in 2010, the first full year after troops defeated Tamil separatist rebels in May 2009 and declared an end to nearly 40 years of fighting. (AFP PHOTO)

Venezuela's PDVSA, Chevron agree \$2 billion deal

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela's state oil company PDVSA has finalized a \$2 billion investment contract with US giant Chevron aimed at boosting production at a joint oilfield.

"PDVSA and Chevron have determined the financing conditions of \$2 billion by Chevron of Petroboscan,"

the company said in a statement.

PDVSA said Chevron's financing of Petroboscan would last until 2025 and that it would enable a production increase at the Boscan oilfield.

Chevron holds 40 percent of Petroboscan, located in the northwest state of Zulia,

while PDVSA controls the remaining 60 percent.

A 2007 law allows foreign oil companies to operate in Venezuela but only as minority shareholders in PDVSA joint ventures.

Venezuela produces an average of three million barrels of oil per day according to official figures but the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries estimates production at 2.3 million barrels per day.

Lloyds branch sale to Co-op back on the table as deal terms agreed



LONDON : Britain's retail bank sector faced further shake-up on July 19 as state-rescued Lloyds Banking Group agreed to sell 632 branches at a loss to The Co-operative Group after an EU competition ruling. Mutually-owned Co-op said the sale would lift its share of Britain's bank branch network to 10 percent from less than four percent, equipping it to take on the country's "Big Four" lenders - HSBC (HSBA.L), Barclays (BARC.L) Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L) and Lloyds itself.



Current as of: 07/19/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.75	1.77	1.79
Britain	GBP	2.73	2.78	2.84
Switzerland	CHF	182.01	182.73	183.53
Netherlands	EUR	216.86	218.84	221.04
Sweden	SEK	24.74	25.46	26.26
Denmark	DKK	28.45	29.17	29.97
Norway	NOK	28.29	29.01	29.81
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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





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Lionfish Hunters Aruba needs volunteers



A fascinated audience

Most diving enthusiasts have been made aware over the past five years of a beautiful to behold but serious threat to delicate reef systems throughout the Caribbean: the invasion of Peterois Volitan, the common Indo-Pacific Red Lionfish. Scientists speculate as to why this voracious predator was first spotted off the Florida coast as far back as 1985; most believe it is due to fish collectors letting them out to sea once they become too large for their tanks or possibly have devoured all their other fish. Aruba Lionfish Hunter Jair Britten is convinced this is where they originate, and in an environment such as the Caribbean, they have found ideal conditions to reproduce at an alarmingly prodigious rate, with no natural predators to control their population.

Red Lionfish are thriving and dominating Atlantic and Caribbean waters and reef environments. In 2009 they were spotted in Aruba, having worked their way south through The Bahamas and other Caribbean island, which is a cause of great concern for marine biologists throughout the region.

On Wednesday, July 18, the Aruba Marine Park Foundation, represented by Castro Perez, hosted a lecture by Shannon Rollock, who conducted a study of the problem

as part of his final thesis in his studies. Jair joined him presenting the situation to a fascinated audience at the Holiday Inn. As an experienced Lionfish hunter who has researched the problem, and combats it on a nearly daily basis, he had some very interesting commentary to contribute.

The Red Lionfish is a voracious creature, and figures have shown that a single lionfish is capable of reducing the existing fish population of a reef where they have establish territory by 2/3 to 80%, within a year. Lionfish are also very cunning hunters, usually pursuing their prey in pairs or packs, herding fleeing fish towards each other so they cannot escape.

In warm Caribbean waters a pair of lionfish reproduces at a prodigious rate; those having taken up residence in colder Atlantic waters will spawn clusters of eggs for 3 months out of the year, when waters are warm. Since the water temperature in the Caribbean is always high, those that have spread to local waters will reproduce all year round, with the capability of releasing 2 million fertilized eggs into the sea, annually. Within 24 hours the larvae hatch, and within 20 to 35 days the young lionfish have matured sufficiently to return to the reef where they were spawned, or be carried by

currents to invade new environments.

Owner of Jad's Dive Shop in San Nicolas reports they are spotting lionfish on every dive, and Jair explained that with very specialized equipment, depending on his choice of dive site, he can capture up to 40 lionfish within an hour. Divers are urged to report sighting of lionfish, though some do not "because they thought it was just too beautiful to be a threat." During a competition conducted in Curacao recently, 26 divers capture over 1500 lionfish in one day.

It is well known lionfish are venomous; the venom injected from their fins can be quite painful and particularly harmful to those who are allergic. However, the lionfish is NOT poisonous to ingest, and are considered very low in cholesterol and quite good eating. The Bahamas, which has greatly suffered from the lionfish invasion, retaliated by establishing fishing competitions directed at the species and several restaurants carry it on their menu. At the completion of the lecture, those attending were treated to a sampling of lionfish from Jair's kitchen, which proved they have a very sweet, moist and tasty meat.

The lecture was not only to provide understanding of the threat by this invasive species to the delicate balance of the Caribbean marine environment, but to encourage divers to join the battle to control the lionfish, with instructions on how to catch them safely; it is hoped that similar species of larger grouper and sharks which regularly consume them in their natural waters of the Indo-Pacific and the Red Sea, will eventually develop that capacity in regional waters. However, the increased rate of lionfish reproduction requires man to step in and at-



Jair Britten, Shannon Rollock and Castro Perez

tempt to control the population before they decimate the very important reef systems, whose economic value as tourist attractions should not be underestimated.

Capturing lionfish is not very difficult with the proper equipment, as they appear to have absolutely no fear of man, which would be perceived as a large predator to most fish. Jair, who also works as pilot for the Atlantis Submarines reports that the lionfish also come right up to the windows of this huge underwater conveyance, utterly confident their venomous spines prevent them from being hunted. He also reported they will not bother swimmers who don't bother them but put up quite a fight when speared, directing their spines to sting their assailant. For this reason, he suggests contacting experienced lionfish hunters to learn safe techniques prior to attempting to catch them.

Scientists believe that eradication of the lionfish is unlikely; the object now is control and preservation of the local reef fish species. Lionfish have been found as far north as Rhode Island and are firmly established around the waters of Colombia. Those interested in assisting in this project can contact the Aruba

Marine Park Foundation through their Facebook page; the World Lionfish Hunters Association also maintains a webpage: <http://lionfish.co/>

by Rosalie Klein

15N15

**15 MINUTE
ENGLISH
LIFESTYLE &
NEWS SHOW**

**ON 15 ATV A LOCAL
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WEEKNIGHTS 7:15 PM

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



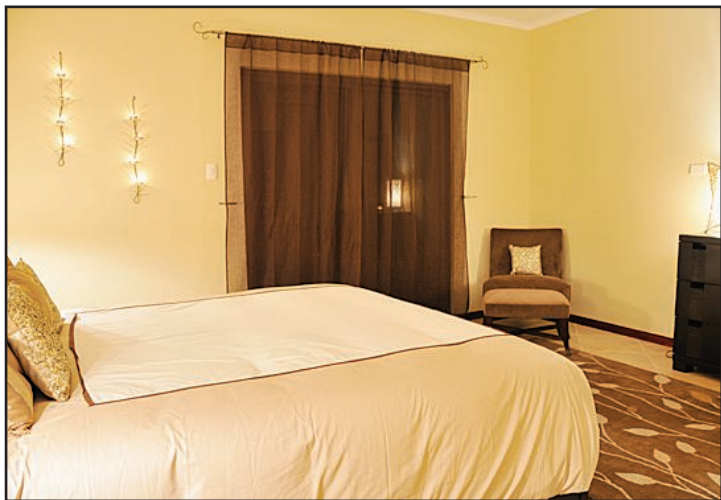
Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,

high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S. franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too

"You never get a second



Gouda Burger 2

chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy fried onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit



Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



Quintavalle looking to find judo serenity



Giulia Quintavalle in action

ROME (AFP) - Four years ago in Beijing she was a virtual unknown, even in judo circles, yet Giulia Quintavalle shocked the world as she beat veteran Deborah Gravenstijn to claim Olympic gold.

The pretty Roman's beaming smile left a lasting memory from that exploit, so much so that it is emblazoned across the wall of the Olympic training hall by the beach in Ostia, just outside Rome, where she trains.

Quintavalle went to China as a total outsider but left not only with a gold medal but also the renewed attention of the favourites in the under-57kg division.

So much so that since then she has struggled to reproduce anything like her Olympic form.

In fact, other than her Olympic gold medal, Quintavalle has never climbed the

podium at either world or European level.

And the 29-year-old admits that after winning in Beijing, she struggled to come to terms with her success.

"After Beijing it was very hard for me. I felt the weight of being Olympic champion on my shoulders because I wanted to show that I was the champion whereas before I felt maybe more detached," she told AFP in an exclusive interview.

"I wasn't among the favourites at the Olympics even though I'd always been amongst the top five in the world but maybe no-one thought I could win a medal.

"So after winning it was tough taking part in other competitions. After a year or two I got used to it but it was still tough."

It is one of the great mysteries of top-level judo that while

some great champions, notably Japan's Shinichi Shino-hara, Belgium's Gella Vandecaveye or Neil Adams of Great Britain never won the Olympics, despite dominating their categories for years, Quintavalle saved her greatest performance for the most prestigious stage of all.

Italy's head coach Felice Mariani thinks this is a common occurrence in sport.

"This is a problem that unfortunately happens to almost all Olympic champions, even in other sports," he said.

"Some athletes, after winning the Olympics, for the next year or two they're not at their top level. I've studied this phenomenon a lot, it's in part due to their expectations.

"An athlete fights at their true level and wins the Olympics but then after that doesn't manage to reproduce the same level because they want to prove to their coach, partner, father and mother that they're an Olympic champion.

"We have an Olympic wrestling champion Andrea Minguzzi who unfortunately has failed to qualify (for London) after losing to weaker athletes.

Quintavalle, currently ranked world number 10, despite her lack of a major medal since Beijing, is making no excuses, admitting that she is the one who hasn't stepped up to the plate when it mattered.

During the 1972 Munich Olympic Games a dispute arose during the basketball final game between the Soviet Union and the United States. With one second left on the clock, and the score in favor of the Americans at 50-49, the horn sounded. The Soviet coach had called a time-out. The clock was reset to three seconds and played out. The Soviets still hadn't scored and for some reason, the clock was again set back to three seconds. This time, Soviet player Alexander Belov made a basket and the game ended at 50-51 in the Soviet's favor.

Though the timekeeper and one of the referees stated that the additional three seconds was completely illegal, the Soviets were allowed to keep the gold.



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Athletics: Kemboi quits rainy Bristol to train back home

NAIROBI (AFP) - Fed up with the wet British summer, Kenya's former Olympic and two-time world 3000 metres steeplechase champion Ezekiel Kemboi has opted to return home after a week of pre-Olympic training in Bristol.

Kemboi, who is embroiled in a court case over the stabbing of a woman in the western Kenyan town of Eldoret, had joined the first batch of the Kenyan Olympic team which has pitched camp in Bristol, in the south west of England.

"Bristol is so nice for sprinters but not good for middle and long distance runners. It is also raining a lot there which is not good for me to train," Kemboi said.

His decision to return to warmer Nairobi adds credence to the stance taken by most of the elite athletes who declined to train in Bristol, citing its low altitude as opposed to the advantageous high altitude in

Kenya, which they say would favour their Olympics preparation.

Team officials believed his being away would help Kemboi concentrate on his Games training and avoid becoming weighed down by all the media attention surrounding his court case which is due to be heard in September.

Head coach Julius Kirwa said he was happy all the 29 athletes, including Kemboi had accepted to train together at the residential camp at Kasarani in Nairobi before their departure for London.

"The team is very focused on the Olympics. There is a lot of understanding among the athletes about the team-work training at the camp which is good for our Olympic preparations," said Kirwa.

The team is expected to travel to London on July 30, four days before the Olympic athletics programme gets underway.



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Court overturns Bin Hammam FIFA life ban

NICOSIA (AFP) - Mohamed Bin Hammam exclusively told AFP that "the truth has been established" after the life-long ban handed to him by FIFA was lifted by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Thursday.

Bin Hammam was banned from football for life in July last year after being accused of trying to buy votes during the FIFA presidential election, but the CAS ruled that the allegations had not been proven.

Bin Hammam was the president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) when he was banned from the sport by FIFA's Ethics Committee following an investigation that took place behind closed doors at the organisation's Zurich headquarters.

"I was sure that when the affair went before an independent body, the truth would come out, and that's what's happened."

Bin Hammam was accused of trying to purchase votes by distributing envelopes containing \$40,000 in cash to delegates during a Caribbean Football Union (CFU) meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in May 2011.

His subsequent withdrawal from the presidential election saw Sepp Blatter re-elected unopposed for a fourth consecutive term at the head of world football's governing body.

"I'm even more happy because my colleagues from CONCACAF (the confederation that includes the CFU), who were at my side, see their honour restored after their names were dragged through the mud due to these unfounded accusations," Bin Hammam said.

The CAS on Thursday



overturned Bin Hammam's ban after citing "insufficient evidence" to impose the penalty.

However, the three-member panel that considered the case stopped short of exonerating the 63-year-old completely.

The Lausanne-based tribunal said in a statement on its website: "The CAS has upheld Mr Bin Hammam's appeal, annulled the decision rendered by the FIFA Appeal Committee and lifted the life ban imposed on Mr Bin Hammam."

But it added that the panel "was unable to conclude to its comfortable satisfaction that the charges against Mr Bin Hammam were established" and considered the case "not proven".

There was no direct evi-

dence to link Bin Hammam with the money's presence at the CFU meeting, but the panel said it was "possible to infer" that Bin Hammam's failure to prove the cash's provenance "might be explained by the fact that it would have confirmed that he was the source".

The CAS panel said it was "more likely than not that Mr Bin Hammam was the source of the monies that were brought into Trinidad and Tobago".

The judgment does not mean that Bin Hammam -- who helped secure Qatar's successful bid for the 2022 World Cup -- is free to resume footballing activities.

He was provisionally replaced after nine years as president of the AFC pending appeals and on Monday was suspended for a further 30 days over fresh corruption claims after an external audit of AFC financial accounts.

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